

## CHAPTER II

### THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION OF INDO-CHINA

"Je ainsi le droit de conqu&e: un droit n^cessaire,  
l^gitime et  
**nMtiheurefoc**, qiri Msse toujours & payer une dette  
Immense pour  
**s'acquitter** envexs k nature Innaine."

*Montesquieu*

TTITHEN Admiral Chamer came to Cochin-China in 1861, his

W infractions were of the vaguest. The desirability of a French poet in the Far East had been apparent to the July Monarchy, but It an imperious necessity under Napoleon III, who involved

in Chinese campaigns. Nothing beyond this skeleton idea, however, had been evolved, so that the Admiral's administration was not to preconceived principles but born of current circumstances.

civilization was an unknown quantity to the French. Only and the natives trained in their schools to speak a latin, could serve as intermediaries. All clues to the old system disappeared with the mandarins who had records—of wMdi the most important were the tax they took ffigbt. Not only were the French officers

to work in with administrative

but my previous experience of the Asiatic mind. They

at strategic points and told to maintain

a\* Since and circuitous waterways were

the aofe of they had to contend with regional

» well as	from Saigon,
Governor of Cochinchina,	mildly indicated
of hb role.	He had had
*	
previous expe-	
tl	was familiar with the
current	
of t	But the light of the mandarins
*	in Cbdiin-China,
Native	
fcad fefee	created from very inferior material.
Affairs,	officers, as Inspectors of Native
} ftkt the	JpxtdccfBoiB, exercised all
powers indis-	
to	in salary and promotion
Bonard's	language; In spite of
to	
the	form of government, the
periodic	
01	tie asffitry forced Mm
more and	